

Not Steele?

Apr April 4/56.

My Dear James

Your favor of 17th with enclosing draft for £30 & use of shipment of potatoes came duly to hand. In place to credit with thanks I am very sorry that you have had so much trouble with the shipment from first to last. -

We are all very sorry to hear of poor Williams illness & from what you mention have very little hope of hearing of his recovery - has he any acquaintances in Florida or how is he situated - please give us full particulars as we feel very anxious to hear it will be very distressing to Mother to think of his dying so far away & amongst strangers -

My Mother in Law Mrs. McCraith died very suddenly last week - from a stroke of apoplexy she only survived it about 5 hours - did not suffer much after the first stroke but just seemed to drop away - how true it is that in the midst of life we are in death - really we should be prepared to die for we know not how soon the summons may come

I am sorry to hear that your Father will lose so
heavily from the fall in flour - the prospect
of peace has had a wonderful influence in
depressing value of grain but now that the
news is confirmed & peace certain to come
Market rather firm & I suppose prices on
yr side are very much influenced by the hope
of aid from here - so perhaps our losses
may not turn out so heavy. I held a
large quantity of flat Meal on which there
will be pretty heavy loss if prices don't improve
but we must just make up our minds
to take things as they come, no use in fretting.
I think we will soon have a more favorable time
for business operations, as the war is concluded
many will likely become more abundant
& cheap which will encourage an
extension of mercantile enterprises - business
generally has been in a very depressed con-
dition in the Country for the past year
or so. - I will remember you
to Gilbert Fortunes when I see him
which I do very seldom now

I do not at present recollect of any news here
that would interest you. Mother is a much
better correspondent than me - I send you a copy
of yesterday's paper. You never mention
how Mr Goldie & the children are from which
we infer that they are well. I think
you are right not to move from your
present situation until business is in
a more satisfactory position -

With kindest regards to Mrs G. Self

Believe me

Yours very sincerely
Erwin Form

Steele?

F.S. 1. I had a visit about 2 Mr. since from one
of my young men belonging to Cutino,
he had come home from the States & intended
going out again - he found the old
country not at all to his mind -

F.S. 2. Uncle A. is at present at Liverpool looking
out for a ship - how very far from
fortunate poor Mark - I hope he
may have much more so for the future
LL